

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A telecommunications system comprising:

a network;

a first node in communication with the network;

a second node in communication with the network;

at least one intermediate node in communication with the first node and the second node through the network, the first node, second node and intermediate node defining a path, the first node repeatedly sending signaling through the intermediate node to the second node and receiving the signaling back to establish and maintain a connection between the first node, second node and intermediate node; and

software for determining an OAM (operation and path) matrix disposed in each node for placing connection points depending on characteristics in the OAM matrix and a number of hops between the first node and the second node along the path through which the connection is established each time after signaling from the first node to the second node returns to the first node, the OAM matrix creates fault management and performance monitoring conditions in the

first, second and intermediate nodes, the OAM path matrix disposed at each node which identifies the connection points and the fault management and performance monitoring conditions, and instructs signaling code where to place connection points and types across the connection, the OAM matrix is global across the network, the OAM matrix maintaining OAM configurations during times of reroute, reset, fail over or reboots to reestablish the OAM configuration.

Claims 2-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (currently amended): A method for forming connections in a telecommunications system comprising the steps of:

sending signaling repeatedly from a first node through an intermediate node to a second node of a network, the first node, second node and intermediate node defining a path;

receiving the signaling back at the first node to establish and maintain a connection between the first node, second node and intermediate node; and

placing connection points dynamically along the path with an OAM (operation and path) matrix determined by software disposed at each node through which the connection is established each time after signaling from the first node to the second node returns to the first node, including creating fault management and performance monitoring conditions with the OAM in the first, second and intermediate nodes, the OAM matrix instructing signaling code where to place connection points and types across the connection, depending on characteristics in the OAM matrix and a number of hops between the first node and the second node, the OAM matrix

is global across the network, the OAM matrix maintaining OAM configurations during times of reroute, reset, fail over or reboots to reestablish the OAM configuration.

Claims 7 and 8 (canceled)

Claim 9 (previously presented): A method as described in Claim 6 wherein the placing step includes the step of placing the connection points according to the OAM path matrix based on a number of hops to the second node from the first node.

Claim 10 (canceled)

Claim 11 (currently amended): A telecommunications system comprising:

a first node;

a second node;

at least one intermediate node in communication with the first node and the second node, the first node, second node and intermediate node defining a path, the first node repeatedly sending signaling through the intermediate node to the second node and receiving the signaling back to establish and maintain a connection between the first node, second node and intermediate node; and

means for dynamically placing connection points along the path through which the connection is established after signaling from the first node to the second node returns to the first node, the placing means also creates fault management and performance monitoring conditions

in the first, second and intermediate nodes, the placing means includes software for determining an OAM (operation and management) path matrix disposed at each node which identifies the connection points and the fault management and performance monitoring conditions, the placing means places the connection points according to the OAM path matrix based on a number of hops to the second node from the first node and characteristics in the OAM matrix, the OAM matrix maintaining OAM configurations during times of reroute, reset, fail over or reboots to reestablish the OAM configuration.

Claim 12 (currently amended): A method for forming connections in a telecommunications system comprising the steps of:

sending signaling repeatedly from a first node through an intermediate node to a second node, the first node, second node and intermediate node defining a path;

receiving the signaling back at the first node to establish and maintain a connection between the first node, second node and intermediate node; and

placing connection points dynamically along the path through which the connection is established after signaling from the first node to the second node returns to the first node, including creating fault management and performance monitoring conditions in the first, second and intermediate nodes, including the step of identifying the connection points and the fault management and performance monitoring conditions with software for determining an OAM (operation and management) path matrix disposed at each node, including the step of placing the connection points according to the OAM path matrix based on a number of hops to the second node from the first node and characteristics in the OAM matrix, the OAM matrix maintaining

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OAM configurations during times of reroute, reset, fail over or reboots to reestablish the OAM configuration.